

Grand rally on July 23 Non-govt teachers threaten to create terrible situation

An alliance of the striking teachers on Sunday handed several ministers an ultimatum asking the government to immediately meet their demands or face a terrible situation they threatened to create during their grand sit-in in the capital on July 23, reports UNB.

The leaders of Dhaka unit of the Teachers and Employees United Alliance (TEUA) submitted copies of the memorandum to LGRD Minister Abdul Manhan Bhuiyan, Information Minister Shamsul Islam, State Minister for Information Abdus Salam Pintu and State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman. They sought their solidarity with the teachers.

Before handing over the

memorandum, several hundred teachers joined a protest rally at Muktangan at 11 am and brought out a procession as part of their demonstrations to press their demands, mainly cent-percent government contribution to their basic salaries.

The teachers of non-government schools, colleges and madrasas have been on indefinite strike since July 6, affecting academic career of millions of students. They are demanding salary and fringe benefits on a par with government teachers.

From the rally, the TEUA announced State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milan 'persona non grata' in every school and college across the country for what they said his

"conspiracy to foil the teach movement".

TEAU, a pro-government alliance of 10 teachers and employees' associations, went further to demand the "dismissal" of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and the State Minister for Education, Milan, for their roles unionists think ran counter their interest.

The strikers gave the government until July 23 to meet the 10-point demand, failure in which will lead to a situation "beyond control of the government".

Addressing the rally, TEUA convenor M Selim Bhuiyan warned that some 4.5 lakh teachers and employees are arming themselves with preparations for making the

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Non-government

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grand sit-in programme on July 23 a grand success.

"The teachers will not go for any hunger strike this time around but paralyze Dhaka City by squatting until the demands are met. Neither the government nor the opposition can imagine what kind of programme we will undertake, if our demands are not met by July 23," he said.

He noted that the government would have to disburse an additional amount of only Tk 300 crore or 100 percent government grants for salaries of the non-government teachers.

"To accept our all demands, it would have to disburse only a total of Tk 400 crore in extra," he said.

Mentioning some 50-lakh teachers' votes across the country, Selim Bhuiyan said they hoped that the government wouldn't disappoint them.